

UNIDAD SEIS

- Los verbos reflexivos
- SABER vs CONOCER

Los verbos reflexivos

Los verbos reflexivos indicate those actions that someone usually performs on themselves. In fact, most reflexive verbs express actions related to personal care or daily routines. For example,

DUCHAR (SE) | LAVAR (SE) | PEINAR (SE) | VESTIR (SE)

For this reason, reflexive verbs are always accompanied by reflexive pronouns which must agree with the subject in person and number.

	SUBJECT PRONOUNS	REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS	ENGLISH
Singular	Yo	me	Myself
	Tú	te	Yourself
	Usted	se	Yourself (Formal)
	Él	se	Himself
	Ella	se	Herself

Plural	Nosotros/as	nos	Ourselves
	Vosotros/as	os	Yourselves
	Ustedes	se	Yourselves (Formal)
	Ellos	se	Themselves
	Ellas	se	Themselves

To conjugate any reflexive verb, we must drop the reflexive ending SE from the infinitive form and apply the reflexive pronouns placing before each conjugated form. For example,

DUCHAR(SE):

Yo me ducho → I get shower (myself)

Tú te duchas → You get shower (yourself)

Él/Ella se ducha → He/She gets shower (Him/Herself)

Nosotros nos duchamos → We get shower (Ourselves)

Vosotros **os** ducháis → You'll get shower (Yourselves)

Ellos/Ellas **se** duchan → They get shower (Themselves)

Needless to say, this rule applies to all three verb groups, **AR** | **ER** | **IR**.

However, in the case of verbal periphrasis (two back to back verbs), reflexive pronouns can either go before the conjugated verb or attached to the infinitive verb or gerund.

For example,

Carlota **se** está duchando (or) Carlota está duchando**se** →
Carlota is getting shower in her bathroom.

¿Tú **te** vas a bañar? (or) ¿Vas a bañar**te**? → Are you going to take a bath?

To form the negative of reflexive verbs we simply need to add **NO** before the reflexive pronoun accompanying the verb. For example,

(Yo) **no** me maquillo todos los días → I don't make-up myself every day.

De niñez, (tú) **no** te acuestas muy temprano → From childhood, you don't go to bed early.

Be aware that a great number of Spanish reflexive verbs express a different meaning when used as non-reflexive (without reflexive pronouns - **SE**). Here are some of them:

Normal reflexive verbs		Difference between reflexive and normal	
Mirarse - to see		Irse	to leave / to quit
Levantarse - to get up		Ir	to go
Ducharse - to get shower		Levantarse	to get up
Vestirse - to get dressed up		levantar	to lift
Afeitarse - to shave oneself		Llamarse	to be named (called)
Bañarse - to get bath		Lllamar	to call

Lavarse - to get washed up	Meterse	te get in (poke into)
Llevarse – To get dressed	Meter	to put
Peinarse - to get combed	Ocuparse	to take responsibility for
Acostarse - to lie down	Ocupar	to occupy
Dormirse - to get sleep	Perderse	to get lost
Soñarse - to fall asleep	Perder	to lose
Despertarse - to wake up	Ponerse	to turn into / to get dressed
Enojarse - to get anger	Poner	to put
Preocuparse - to get worry	Volverse	to become
Retirarse - to get retire	Volver	to return

Few examples:

El mañana vamos a la playa → Tomorrow we are going to the beach.

Ella se voy del trabajo → She left her job.

(Yo) pongo los platos en la mesa. → I put the plates on the table.

Luis siempre se pone rojo. → Luis always blushes.

Ella mete su movil en la mochila → She puts her mobile in the bag.

Ella se mete a otros problema → She interferes into others trouble.

(Yo) quiero llamar mi madre → I want to call my mother.

(Yo) me llamo Raúl → My name is Raul.

Las diferencias entre SABER y CONOCER

Although the verbs SABER and CONOCER, have a very similar meaning – TO KNOW, they are not interchangeable for one another and are used with different senses and meaning, depending on the particular contexts. Basically, the chief difference can be summarized as:

SABER: Related to the knowledge of verb – Activities did by the subject.

CONOCER: Related to the knowledge of noun – Person | Place | Thing.

So, when do we use the verb SABER?

Normally it is related to the knowledge of a fact or information; however, it also used for the skills that a person possesses or has learnt. The different scenarios that it can be used are as follows:

To indicate a knowledge of a fact:

Esa profesora sabe bailar **Tango** en nuestra colegio.

That professor knows to dance **Tango** in our college.

Yo sé **natación** – I know **swimming**

¿Sabes **tú** ? que Señor Alejandro González tiene **dos Oscars**.

Do you know? that Mr. Alexander Gonzalez has **two Oscars**.

They are usually used along with interrogative pronouns

such as QUÉ | QUIÉN | DÓNDE | CUÁNDO | CUÁL | POR QUÉ etc.

¿Yo no sé **qué** cenar hoy? – I don't know **what** to dine today?

¿**Quién** sabe la respuesta? – **Who** knows the answer?

¿Sabes **tú** **dónde** están mis llaves? – Do you know **where** are my keys?

¿Sabéis vosotros cuándo empiezan las clases?

Do you all know **when** the classes begin?

To express, practice or learn new skills: [SABER + INFINITIVO].

¿Sabes hablar castellano? – Do you know **to speak** Castilian?

Vosotros sabéis cocinar la paella – You all know **to cook** biriyani.

Mi hermano sabe tocar el violin – My brother knows **to play** violin.

Carlos sabe conducir este barco – Carlos knows **to drive** this ship.

Now when do we use the verb CONOCER?

1) To indicate the relationship, one has with a person.

Ella conoce a mi **mejor amiga** – She knows my **best friend**

Yo conozco a tu **novio Juan** – I know your **boyfriend John**

2) To express the place visited or been in certain place.

Yo conozco **Italia** – I know **Italy**

Diego conoce un **buen lugar** a comer - Diego knows a **nice place** to eat.

Andrés conoce un **pueblo** donde se baila muy bien.

Andrew knows a **town** where one dances very well.

3) To encounter or meet someone for the first time.

Nosotros conocemos a **tu esposo** en una fiesta.

We met **your spouse** in one party.

Es un placer **conocerle** – It's a pleasure **to meet you** (informal).

Yo estoy encantado de **conocerle** – I am delighted **to meet you** (formal)